

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 08 JUN 2005

PCT

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

International filing date (day/month/year)
17.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
17.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H01R13/66

Applicant
KOTZE, Leon

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:-
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

**Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial
applicability**

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 38, 39

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 38, 39 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos.

☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 2-23, 25-34 |
| | No: Claims | 1,24,35,36,37 |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | |
| | No: Claims | 1-37 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-37 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 38 and 39

The terms used in claims 38 and 39 are vague and unclear and leave the reader in doubt as to the meaning of the technical features to which they refer, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of said claims unclear, Article 6 and Rule 6.2(a) PCT.

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 : EP 0 495 980 A (MITSUBISHI MINING & CEMENT CO., LTD) 29 July 1992
(1992-07-29)

D2 : US 4 191 985 A (PHILLIPS, CHARLES M JR) 4 March 1980 (1980-03-04)

D3 : US 4 729 055 A (DORIVAL ET AL) 1 March 1988 (1988-03-01)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A network protector comprising:

- node connecting means (A) for connecting the network protector (1) to a node in an electronic network;
- hub connecting means (B) for connecting the network protector (1) to a hub in the electronic network; and
- a non-earthed surge protection circuit (2,3) for allowing electronic communication between the node connecting means (A) and the hub connecting means (B), the surge protection circuit (2,3) including circuit breaking means (3) for disrupting electronic communication between the node connecting means and the hub connecting means upon a surge exceeding a predetermined magnitude being

received by the surge protection circuit.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 24, 35, 36 and 37

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 24, 35, 36 and 37 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

An analogous reasoning as set forward in paragraph 2 can be applied on claims 24, 35, 36 and 37.

4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-23, 25-34

Dependent claims 2-23, 25-34 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

5 INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

Claims 1-37 relate to subject-matter regarding electrical connections, consequently the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims, as required by Article 33(4) PCT, is fulfilled.

6 REMARK

An analogous reasoning as set forward in paragraph 2 can be applied on claims 24, 35, 36 and 37 using document D2 or using document D3.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

10/592-974

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/IB2005/000426

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
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| | No: Claims | 1-37 |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-37 |
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see separate sheet

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